

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 060283
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 MMO-04
IO-13 ISO-00 OES-06 L-03 CG-00 DOTE-00 SIG-02
/086 R

DRAFTED BY EB/TCA/MA:CTAYLOR,JR.:BST
APPROVED BY EB/TCA:JWBILLER
OES/ENP/EN:GKINTER
L/OES:TLEITZELL
L/EB:JRCROOK :EA/RA:LMCNUTT
D/LOS:RBLUMBERG :AF/I:LGSHURTLEFF
IO/TRC:WDIAMANTI
OES/OFA/OA:GHDALTON
EUR/RPE:PLAASE :ARA/ECP:DTAHER
USCG;DCHINTZE

-----191356Z 118960 /66

R 180254Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USLO PEKING

UNCLAS STATE 060283

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, XX

SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVE ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION

1. THE PRESIDENT, MARCH 17, ISSUED FOLLOWING PUBLIC STATE-
MENT EMBODYING HIS INITIATIVES TO CONTROL VESSEL-SOURCE
MARINE OIL POLLUTION:

QUOTE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 060283

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

THE RECENT SERIES OF OIL TANKER ACCIDENTS IN AND NEAR
AMERICAN WATERS IS A GRAVE REMINDER OF THE RISKS ASSOCIATED
WITH MARINE TRANSPORTATION OF OIL. THOUGH WE CAN NEVER
ENTIRELY ELIMINATE THESE RISKS, WE CAN REDUCE THEM. TODAY

I AM ANNOUNCING A DIVERSE BUT INTERRELATED GROUP OF MEASURES DESIGNED TO DO SO.

THESE MEASURES ARE BOTH INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC. POLLUTION OF THE OCEANS BY OIL IS A GLOBAL PROBLEM REQUIRING GLOBAL SOLUTIONS. I INTEND TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH THE LEADERS OF A NUMBER OF MAJOR MARITIME NATIONS TO SOLICIT THEIR SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION. OIL POLLUTION IS ALSO A SERIOUS DOMESTIC PROBLEM REQUIRING PROMPT AND EFFECTIVE ACTION BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE THE DANGER TO AMERICAN LIVES, THE AMERICAN ECONOMY, AND AMERICAN BEACHES AND SHORELINES, AND THE STEPS I AM TAKING WILL DO THIS.

THE FOLLOWING MEASURES ARE DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE THREE OBJECTIVES: FIRST, TO REDUCE OIL POLLUTION CAUSED BY TANKER ACCIDENTS AND BY ROUTINE OPERATIONAL DISCHARGES FROM ALL VESSELS; SECOND, TO IMPROVE OUR ABILITY TO DEAL SWIFTLY AND EFFECTIVELY WITH OIL SPILLS WHEN THEY DO OCCUR; AND THIRD, TO PROVIDE FULL AND DEPENDABLE COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS OF OIL POLLUTION DAMAGE.

THESE ARE THE MEASURES I RECOMMEND:

-- RATIFICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS. I AM TRANSMITTING THIS FAR-REACHING AND COMPREHENSIVE TREATY TO THE SENATE FOR ITS ADVICE AND CONSENT. THIS CONVENTION, BY IMPOSING SEGREGATED BALLAST REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW LARGE OIL TANKERS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 060283

AND PLACING STRINGENT CONTROLS ON ALL OIL DISCHARGES FROM SHIPS, REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT MULTILATERAL STEP TOWARD REDUCING THE RISK OF MARINE OIL POLLUTION. IN THE NEAR FUTURE, I WILL SUBMIT IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION TO THE CONGRESS.

-- REFORM OF SHIP CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT STANDARDS. I AM INSTRUCTING THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION TO DEVELOP NEW RULES FOR OIL TANKER STANDARDS WITHIN 60 DAYS. THESE REGULATIONS WILL APPLY TO ALL OIL TANKERS OVER 20,000 DEADWEIGHT TONS, U.S. AND FOREIGN, WHICH CALL AT AMERICAN PORTS. THESE REGULATIONS WILL INCLUDE:

- DOUBLE BOTTOMS ON ALL NEW TANKERS;
- SEGREGATED BALLAST ON ALL TANKERS;
- INERT GAS SYSTEMS ON ALL TANKERS;

-BACKUP RADAR SYSTEMS, INCLUDING COLLISION AVOIDANCE
EQUIPMENT, ON ALL TANKERS; AND -

- IMPROVED EMERGENCY STEERING STANDARDS FOR ALL TANKERS.

THESE REQUIREMENTS WILL BE FULLY EFFECTIVE WITHIN FIVE
YEARS. WHERE TECHNOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS AND ALTERNATIVES
CAN BE SHOWN TO ACHIEVE THE SAME DEGREE OF PROTECTION
AGAINST POLLUTION, THE RULES WILL ALLOW THEIR USE.
EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT SHIP CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT
STANDARDS ARE EFFECTIVE ONLY IF BACKED BY A STRONG
ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM. BECAUSE THE QUALITY OF
INSPECTIONS BY SOME NATIONS FALLS SHORT OF U.S. PRACTICE
I HAVE INSTRUCTED THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE COAST
GUARD TO BEGIN DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE PRESENT
INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION. IN
ADDITION, I RECOMMEND THE IMMEDIATE SCHEDULING OF A
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 060283

SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATE 1977 TO CONSIDER
THESE CONSTRUCTION AND INSPECTION MEASURES.

-- IMPROVEMENT OF CREW STANDARDS AND TRAINING. I AM
INSTRUCTING THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION TO TAKE
IMMEDIATE STEPS TO RAISE THE LICENSING AND QUALIFICATION
STANDARDS FOR AMERICAN CREWS.

THE INTERNATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CREW QUALIFICATIONS,
WHICH ARE FAR FROM STRICT, WILL BE DEALT WITH BY A
MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WE WILL PARTICIPATE IN NEXT
YEAR. I AM INSTRUCTING THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION TO
IDENTIFY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS WHICH SHOULD BE DIS-
CUSSED, AND IF NOT INCLUDED, MAY BE IMPOSED BY THE UNITED
STATES AFTER 1978 ON THE CREWS OF ALL SHIPS CALLING AT
AMERICAN PORTS.

-- DEVELOPMENT OF TANKER BOARDING PROGRAM AND U.S. MARINE
SAFETY INFORMATION SYSTEM. STARTING IMMEDIATELY, THE
COAST GUARD WILL BOARD AND EXAMINE EACH FOREIGN FLAG
TANKER CALLING AT AMERICAN PORTS AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR AND
MORE OFTEN IF NECESSARY. THIS EXAMINATION WILL INSURE
THAT THE SHIP MEETS ALL SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTEC-
TION REGULATIONS. THOSE SHIPS WHICH FAIL TO DO SO MAY
BE DENIED ACCESS TO U.S. PORTS OR, IN SOME CASES, DENIED
THE RIGHT TO LEAVE UNTIL THE DEFICIENCIES HAVE BEEN
CORRECTED. THE INFORMATION GATHERED BY THIS BOARDING
PROGRAM WILL PERMIT THE COAST GUARD TO IDENTIFY
INDIVIDUAL TANKERS HAVING HISTORIES OF POOR MAINTENANCE,
ACCIDENTS, AND POLLUTION VIOLATIONS. WE WILL ALSO
REQUIRE THAT THE NAMES OF TANKER OWNERS, MAJOR STOCK-

HOLDERS, AND CHANGES IN VESSEL NAMES BE DISCLOSED AND INCLUDED IN THIS MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION SYSTEM.

-- APPROVAL OF COMPREHENSIVE OIL POLLUTION LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION LEGISLATION. I AM TRANSMITTING APPROPRIATE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 060283

LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH A SINGLE, NATIONAL STANDARD OF STRICT LIABILITY FOR OIL SPILLS. THIS LEGISLATION IS DESIGNED TO REPLACE THE PRESENT FRAGMENTED, OVERLAPPING SYSTEMS OF FEDERAL AND STATE LIABILITY LAWS AND COMPENSATION FUNDS. IT WILL ALSO CREATE A DOLLARS 200 MILLION FUND TO CLEAN UP OIL SPILLS AND COMPENSATE VICTIMS FOR OIL POLLUTION DAMAGES.

-- IMPROVEMENT OF FEDERAL ABILITY TO RESPOND TO OIL POLLUTION EMERGENCIES. I HAVE DIRECTED THE APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AGENCIES, PARTICULARLY THE COAST GUARD AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, IN COOPERATION WITH STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO IMPROVE OUR ABILITY TO CONTAIN AND MINIMIZE THE DAMAGING EFFECTS OF OIL SPILLS. THE GOAL IS AN ABILITY TO RESPOND WITHIN SIX HOURS TO A SPILL OF 100,000 TONS.

OIL POLLUTION OF THE OCEANS IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM THAT CALLS FOR CONCENTRATED, ENERGETIC, AND PROMPT ATTENTION. I BELIEVE THESE MEASURES CONSTITUTE AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM TO CONTROL IT. MY ADMINISTRATION PLEDGES ITS BEST EFFORTS, IN COOPERATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, THE CONGRESS, AND THE PUBLIC, TO PRESERVE THE EARTH'S OCEANS AND THEIR RESOURCES.

JIMMY CARTER

THE WHITE HOUSE, MARCH 17, 1977.

UNQUOTE

2. ADDRESSEE POSTS SHOULD REPORT PROMPTLY ANY HOST GOVERNMENT, PRESS OR OTHER SIGNIFICANT REACTION.

3. IF QUERIED BY HOST GOVERNMENTS REGARDING ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM, ADDRESSEE POSTS SHOULD CITE INTENSE CONCERN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 060283

IN U.S. OVER RECENT TANKER CASUALTIES AND NOTE THAT

ADMINISTRATION PACKAGE IS DESIGNED TO MEET CLEAR NEED TO PROTECT OUR MARINE ENVIRONMENT, WHILE AT SAME TIME PROTECTING FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION AND PRESERVING CONSISTENCY WITH U.S. INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS. POSTS SHOULD STRESS THAT ADMINISTRATION RECOGNIZES IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL ACTION IN COMBATTING MARINE POLLUTION, AND IS CURRENTLY CONSULTING WITH SECRETARY GENERAL OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMCO) AND IMCO COUNCIL MEMBERS IN AN EFFORT TO DEVELOP AN ACTION PROGRAM UNDER IMCO AUSPICES TO FURTHER IMPROVE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS TO PROTECT THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT FROM OIL POLLUTION.

4. ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR POSTS IN IMCO COUNCIL MEMBER COUNTRIES WILL FOLLOW.
VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 060283
ORIGIN EB-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

DRAFTED BY: EB/TCA/MA:RSFARON
APPROVED BY: EB/TCA/MA:CTAYLOR, JR.
-----250816Z 094658 /21

R 250341Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL GENOA

UNCLAS STATE 060283

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 060283 SENT ACTION EC BRUSSELS OECD PARIS
21 MAR 77

QUOTE UNCLAS STATE 060283

FOL RPT STATE 060283 ACTION ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS HAMBURG
USUN NY PEKING 18 MAR 77 QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 060283

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, XX

SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVE ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION

1. THE PRESIDENT, MARCH 17, ISSUED FOLLOWING PUBLIC STATEMENT EMBODYING HIS INITIATIVES TO CONTROL VESSEL-SOURCE MARINE OIL POLLUTION:

QUOTE

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 060283

THE RECENT SERIES OF OIL TANKER ACCIDENTS IN AND NEAR AMERICAN WATERS IS A GRAVE REMINDER OF THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH MARINE TRANSPORTATION OF OIL. THOUGH WE CAN NEVER ENTIRELY ELIMINATE THESE RISKS, WE CAN REDUCE THEM. TODAY I AM ANNOUNCING A DIVERSE BUT INTERRELATED GROUP OF MEASURES DESIGNED TO DO SO.

THESE MEASURES ARE BOTH INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC. POLLUTION OF THE OCEANS BY OIL IS A GLOBAL PROBLEM REQUIRING GLOBAL SOLUTIONS. I INTEND TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH THE LEADERS OF A NUMBER OF MAJOR MARITIME NATIONS TO SOLICIT THEIR SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION. OIL POLLUTION IS ALSO A SERIOUS DOMESTIC PROBLEM REQUIRING PROMPT AND EFFECTIVE ACTION BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE THE DANGER TO AMERICAN LIVES, THE AMERICAN ECONOMY, AND AMERICAN BEACHES AND SHORELINES, AND THE STEPS I AM TAKING WILL DO THIS.

THE FOLLOWING MEASURES ARE DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE THREE OBJECTIVES: FIRST, TO REDUCE OIL POLLUTION CAUSED BY TANKER ACCIDENTS AND BY ROUTINE OPERATIONAL DISCHARGES FROM ALL VESSELS; SECOND, TO IMPROVE OUR ABILITY TO DEAL SWIFTLY AND EFFECTIVELY WITH OIL SPILLS WHEN THEY DO OCCUR; AND THIRD, TO PROVIDE FULL AND DEPENDABLE COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS OF OIL POLLUTION DAMAGE.

THESE ARE THE MEASURES I RECOMMEND:

-- RATIFICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS. I AM TRANSMITTING THIS FAR-REACHING AND COMPREHENSIVE TREATY TO THE SENATE FOR ITS ADVICE AND CONSENT. THIS CONVENTION, BY IMPOSING SEGREGATED BALLAST REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW LARGE OIL TANKERS AND PLACING STRINGENT CONTROLS ON ALL OIL DISCHARGES FROM SHIPS, REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT MULTILATERAL STEP TOWARD REDUCING THE RISK OF MARINE OIL POLLUTION. IN THE NEAR

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 060283

FUTURE, I WILL SUBMIT IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION TO THE CONGRESS.

-- REFORM OF SHIP CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT STANDARDS. I AM INSTRUCTING THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION TO DEVELOP NEW RULES FOR OIL TANKER STANDARDS WITHIN 60 DAYS. THESE REGULATIONS WILL APPLY TO ALL OIL TANKERS OVER 20,000 DEADWEIGHT TONS, U.S. AND FOREIGN, WHICH CALL AT AMERICAN PORTS. THESE REGULATIONS WILL INCLUDE:

- DOUBLE BOTTOMS ON ALL NEW TANKERS;
- SEGREGATED BALLAST ON ALL TANKERS;
- INERT GAS SYSTEMS ON ALL TANKERS;
- BACKUP RADAR SYSTEMS, INCLUDING COLLISION AVOIDANCE EQUIPMENT, ON ALL TANKERS; AND -
- IMPROVED EMERGENCY STEERING STANDARDS FOR ALL TANKERS.

THESE REQUIREMENTS WILL BE FULLY EFFECTIVE WITHIN FIVE YEARS. WHERE TECHNOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS AND ALTERNATIVES CAN BE SHOWN TO ACHIEVE THE SAME DEGREE OF PROTECTION AGAINST POLLUTION, THE RULES WILL ALLOW THEIR USE. EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT SHIP CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT STANDARDS ARE EFFECTIVE ONLY IF BACKED BY A STRONG ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM. BECAUSE THE QUALITY OF INSPECTIONS BY SOME NATIONS FALLS SHORT OF U.S. PRACTICE I HAVE INSTRUCTED THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE COAST GUARD TO BEGIN DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION. IN ADDITION, I RECOMMEND THE IMMEDIATE SCHEDULING OF A SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATE 1977 TO CONSIDER THESE CONSTRUCTION AND INSPECTION MEASURES.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 060283

-- IMPROVEMENT OF CREW STANDARDS AND TRAINING. I AM INSTRUCTING THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO RAISE THE LICENSING AND QUALIFICATION STANDARDS FOR AMERICAN CREWS.

THE INTERNATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CREW QUALIFICATIONS, WHICH ARE FAR FROM STRICT, WILL BE DEALT WITH BY A

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WE WILL PARTICIPATE IN NEXT YEAR. I AM INSTRUCTING THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION TO IDENTIFY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS WHICH SHOULD BE DISCUSSED, AND IF NOT INCLUDED, MAY BE IMPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES AFTER 1978 ON THE CREWS OF ALL SHIPS CALLING AT AMERICAN PORTS.

-- DEVELOPMENT OF TANKER BOARDING PROGRAM AND U.S. MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION SYSTEM. STARTING IMMEDIATELY, THE COAST GUARD WILL BOARD AND EXAMINE EACH FOREIGN FLAG TANKER CALLING AT AMERICAN PORTS AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR AND MORE OFTEN IF NECESSARY. THIS EXAMINATION WILL INSURE THAT THE SHIP MEETS ALL SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION REGULATIONS. THOSE SHIPS WHICH FAIL TO DO SO MAY BE DENIED ACCESS TO U.S. PORTS OR, IN SOME CASES, DENIED THE RIGHT TO LEAVE UNTIL THE DEFICIENCIES HAVE BEEN CORRECTED. THE INFORMATION GATHERED BY THIS BOARDING PROGRAM WILL PERMIT THE COAST GUARD TO IDENTIFY INDIVIDUAL TANKERS HAVING HISTORIES OF POOR MAINTENANCE, ACCIDENTS, AND POLLUTION VIOLATIONS. WE WILL ALSO REQUIRE THAT THE NAMES OF TANKER OWNERS, MAJOR STOCKHOLDERS, AND CHANGES IN VESSEL NAMES BE DISCLOSED AND INCLUDED IN THIS MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION SYSTEM.

-- APPROVAL OF COMPREHENSIVE OIL POLLUTION LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION LEGISLATION. I AM TRANSMITTING APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH A SINGLE, NATIONAL STANDARD OF STRICT LIABILITY FOR OIL SPILLS. THIS LEGISLATION IS DESIGNED TO REPLACE THE PRESENT FRAGMENTED, OVERLAPPING UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 060283

SYSTEMS OF FEDERAL AND STATE LIABILITY LAWS AND COMPENSATION FUNDS. IT WILL ALSO CREATE A DOLLARS 200 MILLION FUND TO CLEAN UP OIL SPILLS AND COMPENSATE VICTIMS FOR OIL POLLUTION DAMAGES.

-- IMPROVEMENT OF FEDERAL ABILITY TO RESPOND TO OIL POLLUTION EMERGENCIES. I HAVE DIRECTED THE APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AGENCIES, PARTICULARLY THE COAST GUARD AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, IN COOPERATION WITH STATE AND VOCSP COMMITMENTS TO IMPROVE OUR ABILITY TO CONTAIN AND MINIMIZE THE DAMAGING EFFECTS OF OIL SPILLS. THE GOAL IS AN ABILITY TO RESPOND WITHIN SIX HOURS TO A SPILL OF 100,000 TONS.

OIL POLLUTION OF THE OCEANS IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM THAT CALLS FOR CONCENTRATED, ENERGETIC, AND PROMPT ATTENTION. I BELIEVE THESE MEASURES CONSTITUTE AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM TO CONTROL IT. MY ADMINISTRATION PLEDGES ITS BEST EFFORTS, IN COOPERATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY,

THE CONGRESS, AND THE PUBLIC, TO PRESERVE THE EARTH'S
OCEANS AND THEIR RESOURCES.

JIMMY CARTER

THE WHITE HOUSE, MARCH 17, 1977.

UNQUOTE

2. ADDRESSEE POSTS SHOULD REPORT PROMPTLY ANY HOST
GOVERNMENT, PRESS OR OTHER SIGNIFICANT REACTION.

3. IF QUERIED BY HOST GOVERNMENTS REGARDING ADMINISTRA-
TION PROGRAM, ADDRESSEE POSTS SHOULD CITE INTENSE CONCERN
IN U.S. OVER RECENT TANKER CASUALTIES AND NOTE THAT
ADMINISTRATION PACKAGE IS DESIGNED TO MEET CLEAR NEED TO
PROTECT OUR MARINE ENVIRONMENT, WHILE AT SAME TIME
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 060283

PROTECTING FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION AND PRESERVING CONSIS-
TENCY WITH U.S. INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS. POSTS SHOULD
STRESS THAT ADMINISTRATION RECOGNIZES IMPORTANCE OF
INTERNATIONAL ACTION IN COMBATTING MARINE POLLUTION, AND
IS CURRENTLY CONSULTING WITH SECRETARY GENERAL OF INTER-
GOVERNMENTAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMCO) AND IMCO
COUNCIL MEMBERS IN AN EFFORT TO DEVELOP AN ACTION PROGRAM
UNDER IMCO AUSPICES TO FURTHER IMPROVE INTERNATIONAL
STANDARDS TO PROTECT THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT FROM OIL
POLLUTION.

4. ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR POSTS IN IMCO COUNCIL
MEMBER COUNTRIES WILL FOLLOW.

VANCE

UNQUOTE VANCE

UNQUOTE VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 060283

ORIGIN EB-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66011

DRAFTED BY EB/TCA/MA:CTAYLOR,JR.,EW

APPROVED BY EB/TCA/MA:CTAYLOR,JR.

-----220538Z 030580 /21

R 211930Z MAR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS STATE 060283

FOL RPT STATE 060283 ACTION ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS HAMBURG

USUN NY PEKING 18 MAR 77 QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 060283

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, XX

SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVE ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION

1. THE PRESIDENT, MARCH 17, ISSUED FOLLOWING PUBLIC STATE-
MENT EMBODYING HIS INITIATIVES TO CONTROL VESSEL-SOURCE
MARINE OIL POLLUTION:

QUOTE

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

THE RECENT SERIES OF OIL TANKER ACCIDENTS IN AND NEAR
AMERICAN WATERS IS A GRAVE REMINDER OF THE RISKS ASSOCIATED
WITH MARINE TRANSPORTATION OF OIL. THOUGH WE CAN NEVER
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 060283

ENTIRELY ELIMINATE THESE RISKS, WE CAN REDUCE THEM. TODAY
I AM ANNOUNCING A DIVERSE BUT INTERRELATED GROUP OF
MEASURES DESIGNED TO DO SO.

THESE MEASURES ARE BOTH INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC.
POLLUTION OF THE OCEANS BY OIL IS A GLOBAL PROBLEM REQUIRING
GLOBAL SOLUTIONS. I INTEND TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH
THE LEADERS OF A NUMBER OF MAJOR MARITIME NATIONS TO
SOLICIT THEIR SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION. OIL POLLU-
TION IS ALSO A SERIOUS DOMESTIC PROBLEM REQUIRING PROMPT
AND EFFECTIVE ACTION BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE
THE DANGER TO AMERICAN LIVES, THE AMERICAN ECONOMY, AND
AMERICAN BEACHES AND SHORELINES, AND THE STEPS I AM TAKING

WILL DO THIS.

THE FOLLOWING MEASURES ARE DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE THREE OBJECTIVES: FIRST, TO REDUCE OIL POLLUTION CAUSED BY TANKER ACCIDENTS AND BY ROUTINE OPERATIONAL DISCHARGES FROM ALL VESSELS; SECOND, TO IMPROVE OUR ABILITY TO DEAL SWIFTLY AND EFFECTIVELY WITH OIL SPILLS WHEN THEY DO OCCUR; AND THIRD, TO PROVIDE FULL AND DEPENDABLE COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS OF OIL POLLUTION DAMAGE.

THESE ARE THE MEASURES I RECOMMEND:

-- RATIFICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS. I AM TRANSMITTING THIS FAR-REACHING AND COMPREHENSIVE TREATY TO THE SENATE FOR ITS ADVICE AND CONSENT. THIS CONVENTION, BY IMPOSING SEGREGATED BALLAST REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW LARGE OIL TANKERS AND PLACING STRINGENT CONTROLS ON ALL OIL DISCHARGES FROM SHIPS, REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT MULTILATERAL STEP TOWARD REDUCING THE RISK OF MARINE OIL POLLUTION. IN THE NEAR FUTURE, I WILL SUBMIT IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION TO THE CONGRESS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 060283

-- REFORM OF SHIP CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT STANDARDS. I AM INSTRUCTING THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION TO DEVELOP NEW RULES FOR OIL TANKER STANDARDS WITHIN 60 DAYS. THESE REGULATIONS WILL APPLY TO ALL OIL TANKERS OVER 20,000 DEADWEIGHT TONS, U.S. AND FOREIGN, WHICH CALL AT AMERICAN PORTS. THESE REGULATIONS WILL INCLUDE:

- DOUBLE BOTTOMS ON ALL NEW TANKERS;

- SEGREGATED BALLAST ON ALL TANKERS;

- INERT GAS SYSTEMS ON ALL TANKERS;

-BACKUP RADAR SYSTEMS, INCLUDING COLLISION AVOIDANCE EQUIPMENT, ON ALL TANKERS; AND -

- IMPROVED EMERGENCY STEERING STANDARDS FOR ALL TANKERS.

THESE REQUIREMENTS WILL BE FULLY EFFECTIVE WITHIN FIVE YEARS. WHERE TECHNOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS AND ALTERNATIVES CAN BE SHOWN TO ACHIEVE THE SAME DEGREE OF PROTECTION AGAINST POLLUTION, THE RULES WILL ALLOW THEIR USE. EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT SHIP CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT STANDARDS ARE EFFECTIVE ONLY IF BACKED BY A STRONG ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM. BECAUSE THE QUALITY OF

INSPECTIONS BY SOME NATIONS FALLS SHORT OF U.S. PRACTICE
I HAVE INSTRUCTED THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE COAST
GUARD TO BEGIN DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE PRESENT
INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION. IN
ADDITION, I RECOMMEND THE IMMEDIATE SCHEDULING OF A
SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATE 1977 TO CONSIDER
THESE CONSTRUCTION AND INSPECTION MEASURES.

-- IMPROVEMENT OF CREW STANDARDS AND TRAINING. I AM
INSTRUCTING THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION TO TAKE
IMMEDIATE STEPS TO RAISE THE LICENSING AND QUALIFICATION
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 060283

STANDARDS FOR AMERICAN CREWS.

THE INTERNATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CREW QUALIFICATIONS,
WHICH ARE FAR FROM STRICT, WILL BE DEALT WITH BY A
MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WE WILL PARTICIPATE IN NEXT
YEAR. I AM INSTRUCTING THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION TO
IDENTIFY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS WHICH SHOULD BE DIS-
CUSSED, AND IF NOT INCLUDED, MAY BE IMPOSED BY THE UNITED
STATES AFTER 1978 ON THE CREWS OF ALL SHIPS CALLING AT
AMERICAN PORTS.

-- DEVELOPMENT OF TANKER BOARDING PROGRAM AND U.S. MARINE
SAFETY INFORMATION SYSTEM. STARTING IMMEDIATELY, THE
COAST GUARD WILL BOARD AND EXAMINE EACH FOREIGN FLAG
TANKER CALLING AT AMERICAN PORTS AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR AND
MORE OFTEN IF NECESSARY. THIS EXAMINATION WILL INSURE
THAT THE SHIP MEETS ALL SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTEC-
TION REGULATIONS. THOSE SHIPS WHICH FAIL TO DO SO MAY
BE DENIED ACCESS TO U.S. PORTS OR, IN SOME CASES, DENIED
THE RIGHT TO LEAVE UNTIL THE DEFICIENCIES HAVE BEEN
CORRECTED. THE INFORMATION GATHERED BY THIS BOARDING
PROGRAM WILL PERMIT THE COAST GUARD TO IDENTIFY
INDIVIDUAL TANKERS HAVING HISTORIES OF POOR MAINTENANCE,
ACCIDENTS, AND POLLUTION VIOLATIONS. WE WILL ALSO
REQUIRE THAT THE NAMES OF TANKER OWNERS, MAJOR STOCK-
HOLDERS, AND CHANGES IN VESSEL NAMES BE DISCLOSED AND
INCLUDED IN THIS MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION SYSTEM.

-- APPROVAL OF COMPREHENSIVE OIL POLLUTION LIABILITY AND
COMPENSATION LEGISLATION. I AM TRANSMITTING APPROPRIATE
LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH A SINGLE, NATIONAL STANDARD
OF STRICT LIABILITY FOR OIL SPILLS. THIS LEGISLATION IS
DESIGNED TO REPLACE THE PRESENT FRAGMENTED, OVERLAPPING
SYSTEMS OF FEDERAL AND STATE LIABILITY LAWS AND COMPENSA-
TION FUNDS. IT WILL ALSO CREATE A DOLLARS 200 MILLION
FUND TO CLEAN UP OIL SPILLS AND COMPENSATE VICTIMS FOR
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 060283

OIL POLLUTION DAMAGES.

-- IMPROVEMENT OF FEDERAL ABILITY TO RESPOND TO OIL POLLUTION EMERGENCIES. I HAVE DIRECTED THE APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AGENCIES, PARTICULARLY THE COAST GUARD AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, IN COOPERATION WITH STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO IMPROVE OUR ABILITY TO CONTAIN AND MINIMIZE THE DAMAGING EFFECTS OF OIL SPILLS. THE GOAL IS AN ABILITY TO RESPOND WITHIN SIX HOURS TO A SPILL OF 100,000 TONS.

OIL POLLUTION OF THE OCEANS IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM THAT CALLS FOR CONCENTRATED, ENERGETIC, AND PROMPT ATTENTION. I BELIEVE THESE MEASURES CONSTITUTE AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM TO CONTROL IT. MY ADMINISTRATION PLEDGES ITS BEST EFFORTS, IN COOPERATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, THE CONGRESS, AND THE PUBLIC, TO PRESERVE THE EARTH'S OCEANS AND THEIR RESOURCES.

JIMMY CARTER

THE WHITE HOUSE, MARCH 17, 1977.

UNQUOTE

2. ADDRESSEE POSTS SHOULD REPORT PROMPTLY ANY HOST GOVERNMENT, PRESS OR OTHER SIGNIFICANT REACTION.

3. IF QUERIED BY HOST GOVERNMENTS REGARDING ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM, ADDRESSEE POSTS SHOULD CITE INTENSE CONCERN IN U.S. OVER RECENT TANKER CASUALTIES AND NOTE THAT ADMINISTRATION PACKAGE IS DESIGNED TO MEET CLEAR NEED TO PROTECT OUR MARINE ENVIRONMENT, WHILE AT SAME TIME PROTECTING FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION AND PRESERVING CONSISTENCY WITH U.S. INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS. POSTS SHOULD STRESS THAT ADMINISTRATION RECOGNIZES IMPORTANCE OF

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 060283

INTERNATIONAL ACTION IN COMBATting MARINE POLLUTION, AND IS CURRENTLY CONSULTING WITH SECRETARY GENERAL OF INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMCO) AND IMCO COUNCIL MEMBERS IN AN EFFORT TO DEVELOP AN ACTION PROGRAM UNDER IMCO AUSPICES TO FURTHER IMPROVE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS TO PROTECT THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT FROM OIL POLLUTION.

4. ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR POSTS IN IMCO COUNCIL
MEMBER COUNTRIES WILL FOLLOW.
VANCE

UNQUOTE VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, WATER POLLUTION CONTROLS, OIL SPILLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE060283
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CTAYLOR,JR.:BST
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770094-1214
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770345/aaaabmmf.tel
Line Count: 716
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 66faedb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 14
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3064355
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVE ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION
TAGS: EWWT, XX
To: ALL POSTS HAMBURG MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/66faedb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009